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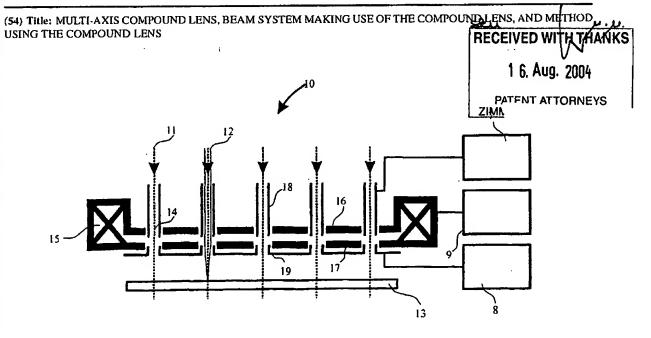
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(57) Abstract: The invention provides an optical system for a charged particle multi-beam system. The optical system comprises an electrostatic lens component and a magnetic lens component. The components are used to focus a plurality of charged particle beams in a separate opening for each of at least a plurality a charged particle beams traveling through the optical system.

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) $IPC\ 7\ H01J$

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the flekts searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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